

<p style="text-align: center;">Sustainability Commission Green Infrastructure Working Group Meeting Report</p>
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Date: Wednesday, August 13th 4:30pm, Department of Planning

Subject: Green Infrastructure Work Group Working Session

In Attendance: Ali Smith, Mark Cameron, Kate Edwards, Anne Palmer, Sarah Zaleski, Miriam Avins, Chris Streb, Kari Smith, Kate Herrod, Ben Nathanson

Discussion: The meeting began with a discussion of the revised goals, everyone in attendance agreed that the condensed set of broader goals were helpful for organization. There was discussion about the need to connect our goals with goals that may already exist in city agency plans, such as Rec and Parks, Transportation, Planning, etc. After the goals discussion it was decided to focus this meeting on indicators and that Saturday's Community Conversation would focus on strategies, targets will be held for discussion at a later date. To discuss indicators the group went through a list of sample categories and indicators from the Community Indicators Handbook to discuss which were relevant for green infrastructure and briefly discussed the Baltimore Neighborhoods Indicators alliance (BNIA) as well as a few examples of indicators from plans for other cities.

Topics addressed:

- Introductions
- Revised Draft Goals presented and discussed
 - Suggestion that maybe we should separate streets and alleys into their own goal
 - Another possible goal is to ensure that all Baltimoreans live within a 10-minute walk of a park
 - Need to consider opportunities vacant land in Baltimore presents
 - The idea of Green Burials was brought and discussed briefly (this could be a possible strategy but may be too specific)
 - We need to integrate our goals with the city's Comprehensive Master Plan and with Transform Baltimore, as well as plans for other city agencies

Revised Draft Goals

1. Food Systems

Make Baltimore a leader and innovator in the sustainable urban agriculture/food system movement

2. Open Space & Parks

Make Baltimore a more beautiful and restorative place to live and visit by increasing the amount and quality of green space

3. Biodiversity/ Ecology

Increase native plant & animal habitat and reduce invasive species in public green spaces

4. Private Interests

Develop incentives for private landowners to contribute to sustainability goals on their land

- Discussion of Indicators
 - We should check things like Baltimore Ecosystems Study, BNIA, and other publications and measurements taken by non-profits to tell us which of our possible indicators can be measured or are currently being measured.

Possible Indicators for Green Infrastructure

1. Number of unhealthy days
2. Number of street trees
3. Number of per managed acre of open space (this could be used to identify places that are underserved)
4. Per capita use of gallons of water per day – water crossover
5. Amount of water consumed per day – water crossover
6. Average daily vehicle hours of delay on freeway system – transportation crossover
7. City parks/rec expenditures per capita
8. Public park acreage per 1,000 population
9. River compliance with metals water standards – water crossover
10. Potable city water consumption per household – water crossover
11. People feeling safe walking alone at night – transportation crossover (addresses access to safe spaces, visibility)
12. Reduction of run-off (Is this being measured?)
13. How much use of water goes towards people's lawns – water crossover
14. Acres being actively mowed (percentage possibly) – this could be used to indicate less resource intensive open space maintenance
15. Number of Green Jobs (How could this be measured? We could list some more specific green infrastructure jobs)
16. Public perception of parks
17. Percentage of schools with educational gardens
18. Night Sky
19. Amphibians/Reptile counts (could possibly get from the Audubon Society)

20. Wildlife counts

- Number of species of neo-tropical birds
- Increase the number of bird species within neighborhoods
- Bio Blitz

Next Steps

- Community Conversation Saturday, August 16th at Morgan State, conversation will focus on Goals and Strategies
- Miriam will look at Comprehensive Master Plan to identify goals and strategies from the Comp Plan which overlap with Green Infrastructure
- Kate will research overlap with other city agency plans
- Mark, Ali and Staff person (Kate or Anne Draddy) will report our groups story including vision, indicators and strategies to the entire commission at the next Sustainability Commission meeting, Tuesday August 26th